# CANONS

*of*

# *The Diocese of the Central and Western States*

***As adopted by Diocesan Synod August 22, 2021***

**CANON 1.1** ***Of the Name of the Diocese***

This Diocese shall be known and designated as the Diocese of the Central and Western States and shall deem its geographical boundaries to be those as set forth in Canon 45 of the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of America.

**CANON 1.2** ***Of the Composition of this Diocese***

The Diocese of the Central and Western States is a voluntary association composed of the clergymen canonically resident therein and of all the parishes, congregations and the members thereof recognized as such by the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof, and shall also be composed of such clergymen, parishes, congregations and other organizations, and the members thereof, as may be duly admitted to union with the Diocese.

**CANON 1.3** ***Of this Church***

The Diocese of the Central and Western States is a Diocese in union with the Anglican Province of America, a jurisdiction of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and submits to the Solemn Declaration, Constitution, Canons and Provincial Synod of the same.

**CANON 2.1** ***Of the Diocesan Bishop***

The Bishop of the Diocese shall be chosen and elected in conformity with the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of America, by the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the clerical and lay delegates entitled to vote in Diocesan Synod casting votes by Orders. He shall be the chief pastor of all the members of the Church in this Diocese and the President of the Diocesan Synod. He shall make at least one visitation to each parish and congregation every two years, shall have the right to summon and attend meetings of parishes and missions within his jurisdiction and shall be *ex officio* a member of all diocesan committees and agencies.

**CANON 2.2** ***Of Bishops Suffragan***

Bishops Suffragan may be elected and serve in accordance with the rules established in the Constitution and Canons of this Church.

**CANON 2.3** ***Of Assistant Bishops***

The Bishop of the Diocese may appoint any retired or resigned bishop of this Church or any bishop without jurisdiction received into membership of this Church, being resident in the

diocese, as an assistant bishop to perform such episcopal functions as shall be determined by the Bishop.

**CANON 3.1** ***Of the Diocesan Synod***

The Diocese shall be governed by a Synod meeting annually at a date and place established by Synod at its previous meeting, or for special reasons at other times at the call of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, or, during the vacancy of the see, by the Standing Committee. Synod shall be comprised of the clergy in good standing and by two lay delegates elected by each parish and mission listed on the most recent Annual Report.

**CANON 3.2** ***Of Assessments, Budgets and Quotas***

Synod shall establish annually a budget for the Diocese. The budget shall be deemed established when its items have been approved by Synod and the tithes from the parishes and missions represented in Synod shall amount to at least the total sum of money indicated by the budget.

The tithes offered at Synod by each parish and mission, shall, upon acceptance by Synod, become the annual assessment of such parishes and missions and shall be sent in equal monthly installments to the diocesan treasurer.

A tithe of all regular diocesan income shall be paid to the Province in accordance with Canon Law.

**CANON 4.1** ***Of the Standing Committee***

Between Synods, the administrative authority of the Diocese shall reside in the Bishop and the Standing Committee. The membership of the Standing Committee shall consist of the Bishop, the Bishops Suffragan (if any), and the following:

A Chancellor, being a priest or lay person appointed by the Bishop.

An Archdeacon (if any), being a senior priest appointed by the Bishop.

A Canon to the Ordinary (if any), being a priest appointed by the Bishop.

A Treasurer, who shall be a communicant member of the Diocese elected by the lay delegates of Synod.

Two clergymen, elected by the clergy of the Diocese at Synod.

Three lay communicants of the Diocese elected by the lay delegates of Synod.

The Standing Committee shall meet at the call of the Bishop, or during a vacancy of the See, by the senior Suffragan Bishop, or by its own resolution. The President of the Standing Committee shall be elected by that body from among its members who are Priests. The Secretary of the Standing Committee shall be elected by that body from among its members. The members of the Standing Committee shall have seat, voice and vote in Diocesan Synod.

All seats filled by election shall be three-year terms. The Primary Synod of the Diocese may stagger the initial election terms as it deems necessary.

**CANON 4.2** ***Of the Officers of the Diocese***

The officers of the Diocese shall be the Bishop of the Diocese, the President and Secretary of the Standing Committee, and the Diocesan Treasurer.

**CANON 5.1** ***Of Parishes***

A parish shall be a congregation of at least forty adult communicant members as defined in the Provincial Canons, meeting in permanent accommodations, served by a Rector paid the minimum diocesan salary and which regularly meets its assessments and quotas to the Diocese and other financial obligations to the Province.

**CANON 5.2** ***Of Annual Parish Meetings and Vestries***

Each parish shall call an annual meeting to which shall be summoned all adult communicant members of the parish. The annual meeting shall elect vestrymen in accordance with the by-laws of the parish. The Rector shall be *ex officio* the chairman of the vestry. He shall appoint the Senior or Rector's Warden in accordance with the by-laws of the parish. The vestry shall annually elect from its membership a Junior or People's Warden, and a Treasurer. The vestry shall also elect a Clerk or Secretary who shall be an adult communicant member of the parish.

**CANON 5.3** ***Of Parish Property***

Each parish shall retain and hold all properties and monies pertaining to it and shall in no wise be defeated of its title to the same by any Diocesan or Provincial agency or Synod.

**CANON 5.4** ***Of the Rector***

Each parish shall elect its Rector who shall be a priest in good standing of the Anglican Province of America. He shall be licensed by the Bishop only in accordance with the terms set forth in the Letter of Institution contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

The Rector of each parish shall be responsible for the worship of the parish in accordance with the Canons of the Church, for the music, organist and choir, for Christian Education and for all priestly and pastoral ministries in the parish. He shall keep a register of services and of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals and of all baptized and confirmed persons. He may, with the consent of the Bishop and in consultation with the vestry appoint such assistant clergy in good standing as he shall deem necessary. A Rector may resign his cure or may be removed in accordance with the Canons of the Province and the terms set forth in the Letter of Institution contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

**CANON 5.5** ***Of Mission Congregations***

A mission shall be a congregation in union with this Diocese which does not meet the requirements established in these canons for a parish.

An annual meeting shall be called, to which shall be summoned all adult communicant members of the mission. At each annual meeting a Mission Committee shall be elected, except in the case of a meeting called to establish such a mission, when the Bishop shall appoint the initial Mission Committee which shall serve until the next regular annual meeting. A Mission Committee shall

elect annually from its membership a Warden and a Treasurer. It shall also elect a Clerk or secretary from the adult communicant members of the mission. Mission Committee members shall be elected, or appointed, from among the adult communicant members of the mission.

A mission shall be the agency of the Bishop who shall appoint and license the Priest-in-charge/Vicar. A Priest-in-charge/Vicar shall enjoy all the rights and duties ascribed in these Canons to a Rector, except that he may be removed by the Bishop in consultation with the Mission Committee.

The properties and monies of a mission shall be owned in the same manner as established by these Canons for parishes.

**CANON 6** ***Of Non-Parochial Clergy***

All clergy of this Church physically resident in this Diocese without cure or other ecclesiastical appointment shall be licensed under seal by the Bishop and shall annually on or by Advent Sunday give an account, in writing, to the Bishop concerning their spiritual functions.

**CANON 7** ***Of Lay Readers***

Lay Readers shall be appointed by the Bishop in accordance with the Canons of this Church and for such periods of time as shall be stated on their license. They shall serve under their Rector or Priest-in-charge/Vicar.

**CANON 8** ***Of Membership***

An adult communicant member of this Diocese is a person of at least eighteen years of age who has been validly baptized and confirmed and whose name is contained in the register of a parish or mission of this Diocese. A communicant member of this Diocese is a person who has been baptized and confirmed and whose name is contained in the register of a parish or mission of this Diocese. A member of this Diocese is any person who has been validly baptized and whose name appears in the register of a parish or mission of this Diocese.

**CANON 9** ***Of the Reception of a Parish or Mission***

An established parish or mission which, by a majority vote of its adult communicant membership accedes to the Solemn Declaration and the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of this Diocese and to the doctrine, discipline and worship of this Church, may be received into membership of the Diocese by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Bishop, with the advice and counsel of the Standing Committee, at their discretion, these Canons notwithstanding, may permit such a congregation to retain its former status as a parish or mission.

**CANON 10** ***Of Trial Courts and the Election of Delegates to Provincial Synod***

Election of all officers to courts, agencies and of delegates to Provincial Synods shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements and rules set forth in the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of America.

**CANON 11** ***Of Amendments***

These Canons may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of Synod, sixty days notice of such amendment having been previously submitted to the rector and senior warden of or the vicar and warden of each parish and mission. Such amendments shall be in effect at the close of the Synod adopting the same.

*I hereby certify the above Resolution was approved by a majority of the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of the Central and Western States, meeting electronically in Primary Synod, on this the Twenty-second day of August, in the year of our Lord 2021.*

Leslie Holland

Secretary of the Primary Synod of the Diocese of the Central and Western States